

# The Littlest Penguin and the Phillip Island Penguin Parade

AUTHORS

**THE PENGUIN FOUNDATION**

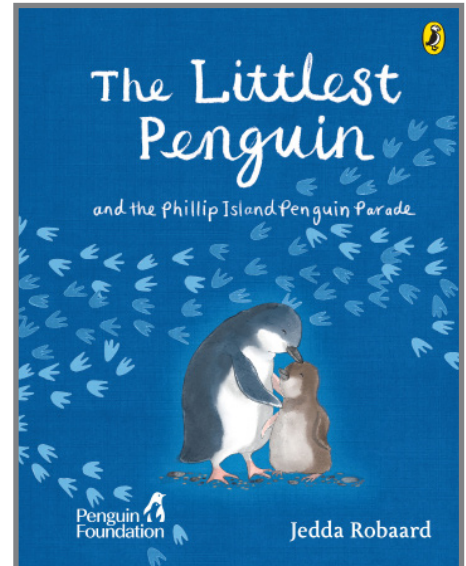
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

The little penguins come waddling and tumbling out of the water and up the hill, back to their burrows on the island . . . But that's just the end of an even more amazing story. Where have they been? What adventures did they have?

Come on an incredible journey with Little Penguin, Scruffy, Cheeky and Big Chick as they go to sea for the first time . . . and encounter phosphorescence and storms, birds of prey, seals and schools of fish, as well as oil rigs, tankers, ocean pollution and fishing trawlers!

A charming, fully illustrated fictional story for young readers that follows four gorgeous little penguins out to sea and back to their beloved Phillip Island.

Created in partnership with the Penguin Foundation and based on the amazing journey behind Phillip Island's Penguin Parade, *The Littlest Penguin* includes a nonfiction section with all you need to know about these wonderful little birds, approved by the research scientists on the island.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The Penguin Foundation raises funds to protect Phillip Island's native wildlife and enhance the natural environment through research, conservation and education programs.

Royalties from the sale of this book go to the Penguin Foundation, Phillip Island Nature Parks. Find out more about the Penguin Foundation at [penguinfoundation.org.au](http://penguinfoundation.org.au).

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jemma Robaard is an Australian author, illustrator and designer, based in Southern Tasmania. She has been illustrating and writing children's books since 2011 and has over 50 books published. Her books are sold internationally and have been published in many languages.

## THEME

- Environmentalism/conservation
- Biological sciences
- Animal habitats, biomes

- Distance and maps
- Friendship, family and community
- Independence and confidence
- Stages of life and growing up

### STUDY NOTES

- Before you read the story, look at the cover and the blurb on the back of the book. What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions? After reading, were those questions answered?

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

- Little Penguin is happy, warm and safe at home. She isn't sure that she wants to grow up and go to sea. Everyone has felt that way about doing something out of our comfort zone or something new. Encouragement from her parents, finding friends and doing things that build confidence help Little Penguin to discover that the sea is her home and she is as happy there as in the burrow. Write a diary entry about a time when you felt a bit like Little Penguin in her burrow, unsure about the future. Tell us what you did to overcome that and succeed? Or what you might do in the future.
- Little penguins usually travel on their own at sea, but they come back to their community at Phillip Island. When she returns, Little Penguin listens for her parents, Big Chick, Cheeky and Scruffy. Who makes up your community? Who in your life would you always come back to and listen for? Draw a picture or a cartoon of each of them and write three special things about them.
- It takes a while for Little Penguin to have confidence in herself. Can you write down the key moments that boost her confidence? Consider her achievements as well as the things she has been told by other penguins.
  - What events or people in your life have given you confidence? What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?
- Early in their journey, Little Penguin has a scary experience with a sea eagle. In a small group, discuss how it made her feel. And the positive lessons she learnt from that close call. How did it make her a better hunter and help her to find food for her friends?
- Do you think that Little Penguin and Scruffy will one day have chicks of their own? Imagine what their two little hatchlings would be like? Draw them and think about their different personalities.
  - Write one more chapter of the book or a short graphic novel or illustrated chapter about Little Penguin and Scruffy's two hatchlings and an adventure they have in the rookery.
- Draw a big heart and inside it write the things that you think make a healthy, happy family. Do you think Little Penguin and Scruffy will make a happy family? Why?
- Families can come in all shapes and sizes, and friends can be like family too. In what ways are Big Chick and Cheeky like family to Little Penguin?
- Did the turtle scene make you feel sad? It made Little Penguin sad too. Break into small groups and talk about how it made you feel.
- Sometimes bad things happen and there's nothing we can do to help, even if we try. Write a letter to Little Penguin to help her to feel better.

### ENGLISH

- As you read, find three words in the book that are new to you. Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and the words and pictures that surround them). The nonfiction section at the end will define some of the terms if you are stuck.

### Storytelling

- Listen to the commentary by this BBC sports journalist as he covers the 'Great Little Penguin Race'. [youtube.com/watch?v=hK8V7t-a6wo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hK8V7t-a6wo) Did it make you laugh? Write down three things that you found funny. Why do you think they were funny?
- Big Chick and Cheeky have a cute relationship and have very different personalities. Draw a comic of the two of them—they might be doing something fun together, or heading off to sea for the second time, or trying to escape a big seagull in the rookery. Whatever you like!

- Can you write a script of two animals from this book meeting? What would happen? If they could talk, what would they say? Is one of them fast and one of them slow? Is one of them a predator and one of them prey? Are they so different in size that they might not normally notice each other?
- Have you ever encountered an animal in the wild or watched a documentary about people interacting with wild animals? Write an exciting story about that animal experience or about an imagined interaction with a wild animal. It can be real or made up, moving, funny or exciting. Break into pairs and roleplay your stories!

## SCIENCE

- Watch the highlights from the penguin livestream at the following link <<https://penguins.org.au/virtual/penguin-parade-live-stream/>>. Do you think you can see any of the penguin characters from the book? Tell your class why you think you recognise each character.
  - Can you see any other native Australian wildlife in the video? Call out when you see the following animals:
    - a cape barren goose
    - an eastern-barred bandicoot
    - a wallaby.
- Watch the short documentary at the following link <[youtube.com/watch?v=aMmcFRWRJ8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMmcFRWRJ8E)> so you can see the little penguins coming in and feel like you have 'visited' Phillip Island and the penguins.
  - Pretend that you really did go to visit and write a letter to your best friend, telling them all about what you saw and what it was like. Tell them why they would love it and why they should visit too! Make sure to tell them at least five 'fun facts' about the little penguins.
- Watch a video of two little penguins in their burrow at the following link <[youtu.be/TUZT50yTro8](https://youtu.be/TUZT50yTro8)>. One of them is sitting on an egg. Then you can watch a video of the egg hatching here: <[youtu.be/iGH8bzHINpg](https://youtu.be/iGH8bzHINpg)>. Write a personal text describing it and how you feel about it? You can name the little penguin if you like!
- You can see what little penguins look like when they moult at the following link <[youtu.be/oAe\\_PUEFZJo](https://youtu.be/oAe_PUEFZJo)>. What did you learn from the book about why they have to stay on land? Look at their feathers. Why do you think they can't get wet during this period?
  - Prepare a persuasive speech explaining to a moulting little penguin why it's a bad idea to go to sea.
- Listen to the many wonderful noises that the little penguins make at the following link <[youtube.com/watch?v=QHPEhwzQmgQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHPEhwzQmgQ)>. We had to make up sounds to describe them! Can you do a better job? How would you describe these sounds?
- From the story, can you remember some of the threats to the little penguins and their environment that have been created by people? Try to list them for yourself, and your teacher will write them on the board.
- Talk together about whether there are ways we can help the environment or stop each problem from happening at all.
- Do you know what the words 'extinct' and 'endangered' and 'threatened' mean? Look them up in a dictionary.
- Can you think of ways that we are harming the environment and putting wild animals at risk?
- Split into pairs and discuss why you think that looking after the environment so wild animals can survive is important.
- Based on your research, write a persuasive text arguing for preserving our natural environment and wild animals.
- Draw a picture of your favourite Australian animal from *The Littlest Penguin* (other than a penguin). It might be a land animal, marine animal or a bird. Think about the major features that help them survive in their environment and label them if you can. Do they hide in their environment in any way (camouflage)? Think about their environments and their colours, patterns and size. Consider their claws, paws, flippers or fins. Are they predatory or prey or both?
- Do you know what the word 'adapt' means? How have humans adapted to their environment? How have we adapted our environment to suit us? How does this impact the animals sharing the planet with us?
- How do you think the little penguins of Phillip Island have adapted to their natural environment? Have they adapted to anything in their environment that has been introduced by humans?
- See if you can find Australia on a world map. Once you have found us, see if you can locate Victoria.
- Plan a journey from wherever you live to visit the little penguins of Phillip Island and draw your journey on the map. Is it a long way? What transport would you need to use to travel there? How long would it take?
- Using the nonfiction section at the end of the book, research a bit more about the little penguins of Phillip Island and

find a way to tell the class about it. Try to include at least five interesting facts.

- Choose a different animal from this book. Find out some key facts and print out some pictures or do your own drawings. Make a poster and use it to teach the class about your chosen animal.
- Do you know what a 'biome' is? How is it different to an 'environment' or a 'habitat'? Use your dictionary to find out and tell us about the little penguins' biome, environment and habitat.
- Little penguins that are caught in oil spills can't clean the oil off as they will swallow some and become very sick. Rescuers dress them in adorable little jumpers to protect them until they can be cleaned. Draw a picture of a penguin and design a jumper! It can be as colourful or as patterned as you like.